

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 10620 251853Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

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L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-15 MC-02

NSF-04 EB-11 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-13 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6505

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TAGS: TSPA, TECH, GW

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE, MEETING JULY 31,
1973, FRG POSITION

1. THE FRG RELEASED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON JULY 24
CONCERNING UPCOMING EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE (EMBASSY
TRANSLATION). BEGIN TEXT:

RESEARCH MINISTRY CONFIRMS GERMAN POSITION
FOR EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE

2. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL GO TO THE SECOND ROUND
OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS, POSTPONED
TO THE 31ST OF JULY, WITH A CLEAR POSITION. THIS WAS
CONFIRMED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY IN
THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY,
DR. VOLKER HAUFF. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS READY TO
PARTICIPATE WITH ABOUT HALF THE COST IN THE SPACE
LABORATORY SPACE LAB, IN GERMAN OPINION THE MOST
INTERESTING PROJECT FROM TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC
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PAGE 02 BONN 10620 251853Z

AS WELL AS INDUSTRIAL POINTS OF VIEW. IN ADDITION, THE

FRG IS READY TO CONTRIBUTE A FIXED AMOUNT TO THE FRENCH ROCKET PROJECT L III S AND A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE TO THE EUROPEAN MARITIME NAVIGATION SATELLITE MAROTS, WHICH IS FAVORED IN PARTICULAR BY GREAT BRITAIN. THE CABINET HAS PROVIDED THE RESEARCH MINISTRY ON JULY 4 WITH THE NECESSARY NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY.

3. TURNING TO CRITICAL OPINIONS VOICED IN CONNECTION WITH FRG PARTICIPATION IN THE US-EUROPEAN SPACE LAB, DR. HAUFF AGAIN POINTED OUT THE GREAT TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROGRAM. AT A TIME WHEN THE WHOLE AMERICAN SPACE TECHNOLOGY WAS TURNING INTO A NEW TECHNOLOGICAL DIRECTION IT WOULD BE DOWNRIGHT ABSURD IF THE FRG WERE TO WITHDRAW FROM SUCH FUTURE-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT. MOREOVER PARTICIPATION IN THE SPACE LAB WOULD MEAN ADMISSION TO THE FUTURE ECONOMIC UTILIZATION OF SPACE, WHICH ALSO AND SPECIFICALLY SHOULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR SPACE INDUSTRY. IN THIS CONNECTION DR. HAUFF ALSO REJECTED SPECULATIONS REGARDING SO-CALLED ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS, SUCH AS CONVERSION OF SOLAR ENERGY INTO UTILIZABLE ELECTRIC ENERGY, POINTING OUT THAT SUCH PROJECTS IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THEY COULD NOT BE REALIZED FOR A NUMBER OF DECADES, IF AT ALL, AT NO TIME COULD BE A PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE TO A CONCRETE SPACE PROJECT. ESPECIALLY INDUSTRY SHOULD KNOW THAT SUCH A PROJECT AT PRESENT WOULD BE LIMITED TO STUDIES AND THAT THE CHANCES FOR TECHNICAL REALIZATION OR ECONOMIC PROFIT WOULD BE FAR REMOTE.

4. IT COULD BE SUSPECTED THAT SUCH ANONYMOUS CRITICS WERE TRYING TO BRING TO LIFE AGAIN THE UNSUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL LAUNCHERS. THE FRG WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO WASTE TAX MONEY FOR PRESTIGE PROJECTS OF THIS KIND.

5. WITH EMPHASIS THE STATE SECRETARY AGAIN UNDERLINED THAT THERE IS BROAD EUROPEAN CONSENSUS AS THE BASIS FOR THE ENVISAGED PARTICIPATION OF THE FRG IN THE SPACE LAB WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE US POST-APOLLO
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BONN 10620 251853Z

PROGRAM. IN DECEMBER 1972 THE EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE ALREADY AGREED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF SPACE LAB IN EUROPEAN-US COOPERATION AND UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION ESRO HAS ALREADY BEEN OBTAINED.

6. FINALLY, THE STATE SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT BY JULY 31 ALL OTHER EUROPEAN PARTNERS WOULD COME

TO AN EQUALLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE WITH REGARD TO
REALIZATION OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE PROGRAM DECIDED
UPON IN DECEMBER 1972 AS THE FRG HAS ALREADY ADVOCATED
AT THIS CONFERENCE. END TEXT.
HILLENBRAND

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